Form	10-300
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE:	
	Kansas
COUNT	Y :- : : ! - : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
	Marion
	FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY	DATE

Peabody Historical Library Museum AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Peabody Library (preferred name) STREET AND NUMBER: East of the intersection of East Division and Walnut street on the south side of Division Feabody No. 4 Garner Shriver STATE Kansas 66866 CODE COUNTY: OWNERSHIP CATEGORY (Check One) Object Both Private Both Private Residence Object Agricultural Commercial Co		INVENTOR		FOR NPS USE ONLY					
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CONDITION	(Check One)	(Check One)
	X Altered Unaltered	X Moved Original Site

The old Peabody Library building is a one-story Vernacular style structure with a basement. The frame building is a simple rectangle with two attached ante rooms, one at the north and the other at the south end. The walls are constructed of horizontal siding. Wide bands of siding traverse the building at the window sill line and at the window head line, dividing the main facade into three portions. Broad boards at each corner make a strong statement. The steeply pitched gable roof overhangs the walls below with a simple eave. Roofs on the two adjoining rooms are similar to the main roof.

Window openings are simple rectangles of the four light double hung sash type. The main entrance in the north ante room is a single leaf door with a large transom above.

The south ante room was added in 1968-1969 to house an extensive doll collection given to the museum by a local resident.

The building is an excellent example of early Vernacular architecture executed in wood frame and has been restored to a very fine condition.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	[20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica	ble and Known)	1875	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Peabody Library building, presently the Peabody Historical Library Museum, housed the first free tax-supported library in the state. The town of Peabody was named in 1871 after Frank H. Peabody of Boston, an Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad executive. In May, 1874, Mr. Peabody visited the town, at which time he announced he would donate money for a library building, furniture, books and periodicals if the Peabody township (the town of Peabody was not yet incorporated) would secure four town lots for the site. He also agreed to pay for the landscaping of the property. The contract for construction was awarded to Topeka builders who finished the structure in the spring of 1875. The library was opened to the public on June 19, 1875, and the following February the state legislature authorized the township to levy a tax to support the library.

The frame structure housed the library facilities until 1914 when a new Carnegie library was constructed on the old location. The original building was moved to a city park and later to a schoolground. It was used as a utility building and for club meetings, and also stood idle for a number of years until 1960 when planning for the 1961 Kansas centennial celebration aroused interest in preserving the building as a museum. Local citizens organized, obtained a \$2,000 grant from the Marion County Historical Society and moved the structure to a lot near its original location, just east of the present library building. The old library building which now contains relics of early Peabody and Kansas history, was dedicated as a museum on July 3, 1961. It is operated and maintained by the Peabody Historical Society.

The Old Peabody Library is one of the few remaining early structures erected in the community and has local significance because of its service to the town in its formative years. The building has state significance because it was the first free tax-supported library in Kansas.

MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RI	FERENCES					
All	About Marion Co	ounty, Kan	sas (Ma	rion Cen	tre, Kan., E	. W. Hoch, 1	876),
Cat	talogue of the Po	eabody Pub	lic Lib:	rary (Pe	abody, Kan.,	Gazette Pub	_
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